

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-40 (Canceled).

41. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein the mouse further exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a spleen abnormality comprising decreased spleen size.
42. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein the mouse further exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a spleen abnormality comprising reduced spleen weight.
43. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein the mouse further exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a spleen abnormality comprising reduced spleen to body weight ratio.
44. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein ~~the mouse exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, said a spleen abnormality comprising lymphoid depletion of the spleen~~ comprises lymphoid depletion in the periarteriolar lymphoid sheaths of the spleen.
45. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein the mouse further exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a thymus abnormality comprising reduced thymus size.
46. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein the mouse further exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a thymus abnormality comprising reduced thymus weight.
47. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein the mouse further exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a thymus abnormality comprises reduced thymus to body weight ratio.
48. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein ~~the mouse exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a thymus abnormality comprising lymphoid depletion in the thymus~~ is consistent with thymic dysplasia.
49. (~~Currently amended~~Canceled) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~5553~~, wherein the mouse exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a lymph node abnormality comprising lymphoid depletion.

50. (Currently amended) The transgenic mouse of claim ~~55~~53, wherein the mouse further exhibits, relative to a wild-type control mouse, a lymph node abnormality comprising reduced lymph node size.

Claims 51-52 (Canceled)

53. (Currently amended) A transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a homozygous disruption in the gene encoding the mCAR2 protein, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID No:2; said mouse exhibiting, relative to a wild-type control mouse, lymphoid depletion of at least one the following: spleen, thymus and lymph nodes~~a null allele of the endogenous mCAR2 gene.~~

Claims 54-57 (Canceled).